

JOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Henke, Armstrong, Idleman, Dumas, Gang

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: LaPointe, Henke, Idleman, Hicks, O'Brien

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Campbell, Brown, Suprenant, Pitts, Haff, Shay

SUPERVISORS:Lindsay

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Chris DeBolt, Deputy Co. Administrator

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Warren County Supervisors & Staff

SUNY Adirondack – President Duffy & Staff

Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – June 8, 2015
3. Discuss Capital Project Requests
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Henke called the Community College Committee to order at 1:05 PM at SUNY Adirondack, Regional Higher Education Center, Queensbury, NY. No quorum of the Finance Committee. Warren County Community College and Finance Committees called to order.

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2015 joint Finance and Community College Committee meeting was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mrs. Dumas and adopted.

Welcome by President Duffy.

Anne Marie Sommo, Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer, addressed the 2016-2017 proposed Capital Funding request. Each year SUNY submits to the state an annual capital request. Chargebacks are applied towards capital requests and come from students that attend from outside the sponsoring counties. Last year, the \$20M NSTEM request was submitted and approved. The proposed capital items requested for 2016-2017 are detailed on the attached handout. The deadline to submit to SUNY is September 30, 2015. The projects total \$5,306,000 and the 50% local share is \$2,653,000 less \$2M from the Foundation, \$100,000 grant funding and \$153,000 FSA funding for a total local share of \$400,000. A motion to approve 2016-2017 proposed Capital Funding request and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Gang, seconded by Mrs. Dumas and adopted. Board resolutions are needed for capital requests using their official legal name, Adirondack Community College.

Capital Funding request was approved by both Warren County committees.

President Duffy updated the committee on the following items:

NSTEM Update – Submitted as a \$20M project and approved. To move forward, they need a \$10M local share funding commitment and bonding was discussed at previous meeting. Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, stated Washington County was looking for a mortgage tax increase that was not approved in the Senate to move forward. Washington County representatives addressed this with

Senator Little and she will present this next year. She also discussed making capital projects exempt from the tax cap similar to schools and that would require a change in law. Warren County has been exploring possible funding sources also. President Duffy addressed the timeline for moving forward. The addition to the science building would take place first and then vacate and renovate the science building without any interruption to classes. Ideally, would like to start building in March but if the financing is not in place by October then it would be difficult to make the deadlines for the next construction season. Summer construction would have the least impact on the academic year. Interest on the bonds and construction costs will increase with a delay. Payments would not begin until 2017. Kevin stated prior to the October Board meeting, Washington County will have an idea of how the 2016 budget looks and suggested a meeting between the two counties with a mid-October deadline. Warren County stated this expense would have to fit in their five year budget plan. President Duffy stated the biggest source of funding for science initiatives at colleges is the National Science Foundation and most of that funding goes toward scholarships not capital projects. They are looking into all types of funding. SUNY Adirondack has a grant writer starting and will be pursuing grants. All three community colleges in Senator Little's district have a difficult time securing capital funding and are interested in pursuing the potential of no interest loans. Hope to make progress on the State level to help support the college.

2016-2017 Budget Planning Discussion - Budget Cycle - They would like to get ahead on the budget process and would like to get together with the committees more often. She recognizes the college's budget cycle is different than that of the counties. Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, suggested the college possibly providing a two year budget plan. Washington County would like an update on the facility master plan. Proposed meeting schedule attached noting the college's annual scholarship luncheon listed has been scheduled for Tuesday Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.

Legislation Update – President Duffy mention legislation that can potential encroach upon local authority of community colleges which would create regional councils of the community colleges across the state with one president appointed per region (region set up the same as Regional Economic Development Councils) to collaborate on setting enrollment and program goals as a region and budget goals. She stated they currently operate under the authority of the Board of Trustees and the sponsoring counties. She stated they support SUNY and feel collaborating is beneficial but setting enrollment goals, issues of authority and budget is a concern. This would be a change in how they are governed and wanted to make sure the counties are aware of this change. Right now, they are working on another requirement that came out of legislation that every SUNY campus has to submit a performance improvement plan to SUNY for approval to be eligible for any additional funding.

Classes start next Wednesday and should be at 100% occupancy at housing this year.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

- Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, introduced Chris DeBolt, who is serving as Assistant County Administrator and will replace Mr. Hayes at year-end when he retires.
- Al Nolette, Treasurer, mentioned how it was previously discussed having the college take over the capital projects. Anne Marie Sommo, Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer, stated the college needs to do some research on what resolutions are needed to make this happen. She also mentioned the previous discussion about how the counties share their annual operating expenses; scenario of possibly taking the spikes out of the contribution currently based on the fall enrollment and then a true-up. That is a philosophy between the two counties to work out.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 P.M.